

NAVY STRONG RIGHT ARM OF NATION, SAYS DANIELS

Secretary Declares It Is Larger, Better Equipped and in Better Condition Than Ever Before.

MORE EFFICIENT EACH MONTH

Two Years Epoch-Making, Marked by Wise and Progressive Legislation and More Real Achievement Than Any Previous Like Period.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—Secretary Daniels to-night made public a letter he has written to President Garfield, of Williams College, detailing the work in the navy during the last two years. Mr. Daniels wrote in reply to Mr. Garfield's request for material to meet statements that the United States is unprepared for military emergencies. The letter follows:

"My Dear President Garfield: I am in receipt of your recent favor asking for an authoritative statement concerning the present status of the navy equipment of the United States, and take pleasure in complying with your request as far as is practicable.

"There are now in active service, fully commissioned, 225 vessels of all characters, which is thirty-six more than were fully commissioned when I became secretary. There are also 101 vessels of various types, in reserve and in ordinary and uncommissioned, capable of rendering service in war. We have under construction and authorized twenty-seven vessels (nine Dreadnoughts, twenty-three destroyers, thirty-eight submarines and seven auxiliaries), as compared with fifty-four vessels (five Dreadnoughts, fourteen destroyers, twenty-three submarines, three gunboats and nine auxiliaries), which were under construction on March 1, 1913.

"All vessels enumerated, those in active service and those in reserve, are supplied with munitions of war. No man should be able to public the quantity of ammunition stored in the navy, and other implements of naval warfare which it keeps ready. It may be said, however, that within the last two years the quantity of all has been steadily and greatly increased. For example, we have increased the number of mines, on land and in process of manufacture, by 244 per cent. With two years has been added to the navy the enlargement of the naval powder factory, we shall soon be able almost to double its former capacity, and like enlargement of the torpedo works and the equipment of a plant to construct mines will still further increase, at decreased cost, the quantity of such stock, and the possession of these plants in emergency will enable the department to be in a better state of preparedness as regards the supply of ammunition than ever before.

"The personnel of the navy is at present composed of 4,355 line, staff and warrant officers and 53,171 enlisted men. Increases in the number of officers is dependent almost entirely upon the output of the Naval Academy, admission to which is restricted by statute. The number of enlisted men also is restricted, and the navy is today recruited to the maximum strength allowed. There are now with the colors 5,824 more men—an increase of 12 per cent—than there were on March 1, 1914.

"My professional training as a journalist has always inclined me to the conviction that any officer, within the prescribed limits recognized in the navy, should be free to express his opinion in regard to matters in his service; and there is not an officer who commands a ship to-day who could or would say that his ship, without or within, was not as good as it was two years ago, or that the officers who command it and the crews who man it are not as thoroughly disciplined, sober, loyal and efficient as they were two years ago, or as they ever had been.

FLEET IN MANEUVERS LARGER THAN EVER BEFORE

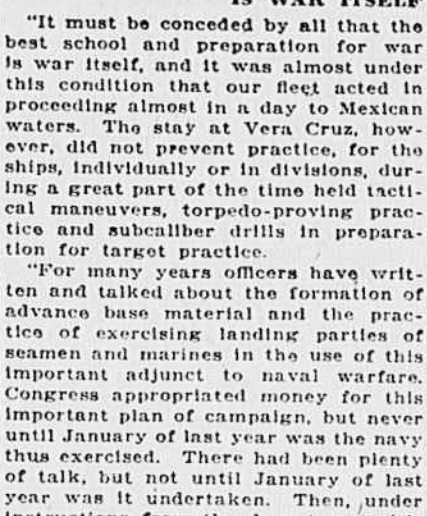
"The Atlantic Fleet has just returned from maneuvers, where it has for many years held its annual winter practices. This year more battleships and destroyers have participated in the maneuvers and for a longer period, than ever before.

"Under the direction of Admiral Fletcher, upon plans evolved at the Naval War College and approved by the department, the fleet has been engaged in tactics to try out its efficiency and readiness. All reports of the enthusiasm of officers and men in this practice and the splendid record made by the ships. The fleet is now in Tangier Sound and on the southern drill grounds, where it will be busy in target practice until May, when it moves to New York for a week's well-earned leave. Then will come the review at New York, followed by maneuvers in Narragansett Bay region, and finally the review in Hampton Roads, prior to sailing through the Panama Canal to the Pacific en route to the exposition at San Francisco.

"These spring practices followed close upon the heels of valuable maneuvers and tactics in October, November and December last. This was indeed strenuous practice, but it is the way the navy is kept in shape, and the new admiral in command of the fleet and the department planned such extensive evolutions, because the only way that the navy can be always prepared is by practice and practice and then more practice. This simple statement of the operations of the fleet since October is one of the best answers I can give to your question as to the navy's preparedness. The necessity of keeping ships in Mexico last year denied Admiral Badger the opportunity for as long practice as he had wisely planned, but the sudden call for the expedition to Vera Cruz demanded and exacted unusual service, to which the fleet responded with an alacrity and readiness which amply justify the faith of the country that there exists to-day no more efficient institution than the United States Navy. Some critics have said the efficiency of the fleet was reduced by reason of going to Vera Cruz. To our regret, certain maneuvers and target practice of value were necessarily omitted. The emergency experience, however, of a year of stress and strain was of far greater value in one important respect than the well-planned routine, because it gave a demonstration of the readiness of the navy in every department, afloat and ashore, to meet an urgent call. Its flexibility was shown in adjusting itself to en-

NEWEST EFFORT FOR CLEAN STREETS

Photo by Foster



Automobile pick-up machine being given tryout on Richmond streets. It sprinkles, sweeps and gathers the dirt in a bin as it goes along. If found satisfactory, the city board will purchase one or more of this type to be used in cleaning smooth-paved streets, flying dust on which is now cause of serious complaint.

On April 5, 1913, and was completed April 1, 1915. As to mine sweepers, a division of seagoing tugs and a division of torpedo-boats have recently been equipped with mine-sweeping gear and the destroyer tender carries a mine-sweeping gear for a division of destroyers operating with the fleet. Additional gear is being supplied. At Pensacola during the winter, the San Francisco and submarine flotilla have been operating jointly in mine exercises. The department has begun the manufacture of mines, and in a short time will have thirty-one mines for mine it had two years ago, increasing our stock 24 per cent. By manufacturing mines at a government station in lieu of purchasing them, a saving of \$175,750 has been effected.

NEW FOURTEEN-INCH GUN MOST POWERFUL IN USE

"As to guns: The Bureau of Ordnance has developed a fourteen-inch gun that will shoot farther, shoot straighter and hit harder than any gun now in use or known to be designed by a foreign country. Based upon former and current prices in contracts for guns and gun forgings we have saved \$250,425.33.

"As to powder: Upon my recommendation Congress increased the capacity of the navy powder factory at Indian Head. When the extension program was completed, the capacity will be nearly doubled. The cost of manufacture has recently been reduced 27 cents per pound, saving already in the cost of powder since manufactured \$150,000.

"As to radio: Radio has at last been successfully installed on submarines, and more than seventy-five ships, which either had no radio or whose equipment was obsolete, have been supplied with modern equipment. Three entirely new radio stations have been added to the fleet: Balboa (Canton Zone), Great Lakes, Ill., and Tutuila, Samoa.

"As to aircraft: The European war has emphasized the value of aircraft. The navy has lagged behind in this important arm of war. Last year I appointed a board of aviation. It recommended the utilization of the abandoned navy-yard at Pensacola as a training and repair station for aviation, and an aviation bureau in the department. This has been done. Upon my recommendation, Congress appropriated \$1,000,000 to begin upon an elaborate plan the real development of aviation in the navy. I also authorized my request to pay aviators an increase of \$6 per month and we are organizing a class of capable aviators. To make immediately effective this feature, three new hydro-aeroplanes have been purchased, which is but the beginning of the work of aviation, now well advanced along the lines of a well-considered plan. I regard this as one of the most far-reaching steps taken by the Wilson administration.

"As to savings effected: All this unprecedented increase in the navy has been secured, too, without large increase in appropriations. How? By avoiding unnecessary expenditures ashore, by reducing the cost of work ashore while maintaining its quality, and reducing appropriations for enlargement of shore stations, by securing real competition, and by economy. During the four years of Taft, \$12,935,572 was appropriated by Congress for the public works alone of shore stations. Two naval bills have been passed by the present administration and they carry together, for the public works of shore stations a total of \$3,920,550. We have greatly reduced expenditure ashore and increased the quality of the work done while at the same time there is a big decrease in appropriations ashore. By securing competition, I saved \$1,077,210 in one contract for projectiles. Up to date, by first rejecting bids and then demanding more reasonable figures, I have saved \$1,110,000 in the purchase of armor plate, securing lower prices than my predecessor secured. In two other bureaus alone last year \$1,500,000 was saved—more than enough to enable Congress to reappropriate \$1,000,000 of the savings for aviation and the balance for submarines. There has been the same character of savings in other ways—too many items to enumerate.

"So much for the material and preparation. Of course, we need constantly to increase the ships and armament, but the increase in the past two years is larger than in any previous two years in the history of the country, is an earnest of what will come in the regular and orderly and necessary increase of naval equipment.

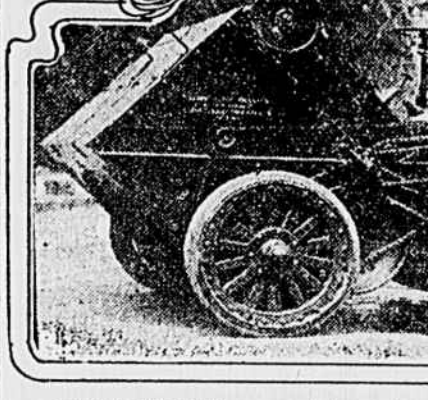
"But of what worth is a ship without well-trained men? What has the Wilson administration done as to personnel? It is a pleasure to tell you that for the first time in years the enlistment is up to the limit prescribed by law, and part of the year we have had a waiting list. Since I became Secretary of the Navy we have increased the enlistment fully twenty per cent, four battleships, four destroyers, six gunboats, six cruisers and three monitors, increasing the total number of commissioned vessels by forty-one over the number in commission on March 1, 1913. I regard this as a great achievement, particularly since the navy had not formerly been able to secure enough men to fill the quota. It has been secured without letting down the standard for admission, which has been maintained and even raised. For every recruit accepted five were rejected because they did not come up to our high standard. To what is the increase of our enlistments attributed? The answer is easy: To the establishment of schools, opportunity to see the world, and for promotion afforded enlisted men. I have denied them. In these two years thirteen enlisted men have been appointed as assistant paymasters; five as midshipmen at Annapolis, and twelve as ensigns. It is true that prior to the Wilson administration it was possible for an enlisted man to be promoted to be ensign, but in the four years of the Taft administration

DUAL MONARCHY IS ABLE TO STAND MONEY DRAIN

Economic System of Austria-Hungary Equal to Great Task Imposed by War.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS INTACT

Decrease in Bank Accounts Following Recent War Loan Amounted Only to 3 Per Cent—Nowhere is There Trace of Crisis.



Vienna, April 25.—The official Fremdenblatt publishes an article by the director of the Allgemeine Verkehrsbank on the financial defensive power of Austria-Hungary, in which he asserts that the economic system of the dual monarchy has proven and will prove equal to the great tasks imposed upon it by the war.

To the most intensive exploitation of the available working forces, to the willing submission of the people to national regulation of nourishment, and to the sound basis of the industrial and economic life, he said, is due to the fact that "nowhere a trace of a crisis shows itself."

Pointing to the success of the Austro-Hungarian war loan, he notes that the decrease in bank deposits as a result of this loan amounted to only 3 per cent, or 600,000,000 crowns (\$150,000,000), "which, in view of total deposits of 20,000,000,000 crowns, justifies the assertion that the war loan for the greater part was paid from out of our economic reserves, so that the deposit accounts in Austro-Hungarian banks remain intact."

"As a matter of fact," he continues, "the deposits in the larger Viennese private banks, not considering the Postal Savings Bank, increased during the first two months of 1915 by 110,000,000 crowns, i. e. 7.1 per cent. This ratio was undoubtedly higher in the provinces."

"A further war loan is at the moment not a matter of actual occurrence, but it is certain if a new appeal to the people should be necessary, the next loan would be floated on terms even more favorable than the first. For the present, ample provision has been made for immediate needs by the issuance of 3,500,000,000 crowns.

"In case a longer duration of the war has to be reckoned with, and if the costs are estimated at 12,000,000,000 crowns, the country would have to raise additional taxes of about 700,000,000 crowns.

"The Austro-Hungarian debt at the end of 1913 amounted to 15,000,000,000 crowns, of which 10,000,000,000 crowns, of which 10,000,000,000 crowns, so that more than half of the national debt consists of productive expenditures. The budget receipts of the two countries since 1900 increased nearly threefold. In Austria the annual taxable income of the people when estimated last year was 7,000,000,000 crowns. The wealth of the empire of Austria is estimated at 100,000,000,000 crowns. The normal value of the agricultural production has risen to nearly 5,000,000,000 yearly. The elasticity of the state budget of economic resources therefore permits the covering of the increased requirements of the war costs without any inquiry whatever to the economic life of the country."

"The article contradicts the assertion that Austria-Hungary is meeting its money requirements in connection with the war by drawing on the Austro-Hungarian Bank, and points out that the financial department had received money neither from the bank nor from the Postal Savings Bank, but that in issuing the war loan it had relied upon an Austrian bank syndicate, which, together with a Hungarian syndicate of equal rank, was available for the credit requirements of the entire country, and would show itself equal to any further tasks.

"The injuries done to the economic life of Austria-Hungary by this terrible war," he says, "are infinitesimal compared with those wrought in other countries, because the economic life of this country is based chiefly on its own home resources, and because our part in the affected international traffic is only modest."

"The article concludes as follows: 'That the monarchy heretofore had to adapt herself to conditions, and build up its economic system from its own resources proves of great advantage now. She can draw the powerful means for the conduct of the war from her own national resources, and will also be strong enough to meet the great tasks of the ensuing peace.'

ITALY AND AUSTRIA MAY REACH ACCORD

(Continued from First Page)

The entente powers would be expected to last for a considerable time. After the war, each ally would be expected to place sufficient troops at the disposal of Greece to allow her to resist the eventual Bulgarian attack, thus assuring the integrity of the present territory of the kingdom.

Death of Mrs. Julia Williams.

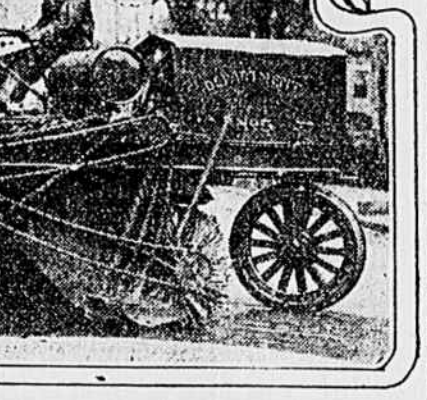
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] CHATEAUVILLE, Va., April 25.—Mrs. Julia Williams, widow of Dr. John W. Williams, of North Garden, this county, died yesterday at a local hospital. She was a daughter of the late Dr. George Martin, and sister of Mrs. P. M. Jones, of North Garden, and George W. Martin, a well-known newspaper writer, now in North Carolina. She leaves three sons, Dr. M. M. Williams, Carl and John Williams.

GERMAN FLEET ANXIOUS FOR FIGHT WITH BRITISH

Reported as Cruising Over North Sea Several Times in Search of Enemy.

COMMANDER'S ONE DESIRE

Tells Captain of Norwegian Steamer That He Hopes to Find England's Squadron and Engage It in Battle to Finish.



LONDON, April 25.—A Copenhagen dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph says that leading German papers declare the German fleet is willing now to accept battle in the North Sea. The entire fleet, the papers declare, several times has cruised over the North Sea vainly seeking the British fleet.

The Vossische Zeitung says the Norwegian steamer Feodin met the German fleet last Sunday off Helgoland. The German commander told the captain of the Feodin that the German fleet had one desire only—to engage the British fleet, and he hoped the British fleet might be found.

EMPEROR CONGRATULATES ADMIRAL VON TIRPITZ

AMSTERDAM (via London), April 25.—A dispatch from Berlin says that Emperor William yesterday sent the following telegram to Admiral von Tirpitz, Minister of Marine and admiral of the fleet:

"On to-day's fiftieth anniversary of your entering the naval service, I express to you my heartiest congratulations, also my pleasure that, with God's help, it was granted you to celebrate this day still in active service and full vigor. I readily embrace this opportunity to assure you of my warmest gratitude for your great services rendered to the Fatherland by the successful extension of the navy. With justified pride you can look to-day on the present war, the importance of which is surely not to be overestimated. As a sign of my gratitude I confer on you the Grand Commander of the Royal House, Order of the House of Hohenzollern."

EPIDEMIC OF DISEASE ADDS TO WAR'S HORRORS

(Continued from First Page)

responsible characters, but the great mass of troops are actuated by the highest motives of patriotism. "Huerta's plan for the redemption of Mexico is altogether futile. The talk about a one-man power or a dictator is nonsense."

DEATHS

WOOD—Died, 3:30 P. M., April 25, in Elizabeth City, N. C., ISAAC WOOD, in the seventy-first year of his age. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Sadie E. Wood, and seven children: Isaac, Jr., Willie, Walker, Laisey, Joseph and Sadie. Funeral notice later.

USE EATMOR BREAD

Pure and Wholesome

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What the People Say

H. W. Rountree:

"The proposition of the Southern Gas and Electric Corporation is the most practical ever presented. It deserves the most serious consideration. If the Council favors the plan, it would influence the people more than if there was only a half-hearted influence behind it. Now, as to our Gas Works, it is claimed they are run at a profit. I believe that if the correct figures could be obtained, allowing for wear and tear, etc., it would be found that the profits therefrom are much less. Still, the whole question is so big that conclusions cannot be jumped at. The proposition of the Southern Gas and Electric Corporation should, as I said before, receive the most thorough consideration."

Murray M. McGuire:

"I have not examined carefully the proposition made by the Southern Gas and Electric Corporation for a lease of the city's gas plant, but I am satisfied that a lease of this plant to reliable private parties, on reasonable terms, would be an excellent thing for the city. I know Mr. Alex. H. Sands, counsel for this corporation, well, and I feel sure that he would not submit a proposition which he was not satisfied was clean and aboveboard.

"I think that it is advisable to submit to the voters the general proposition of whether or not there should be a lease, but I think the details of the lease should be left to a small committee of competent representatives of the city, which would examine the details with care. I do not believe the general public will vote intelligently on a complicated agreement, as the average voter will not read all the terms of a lengthy contract."

Southern Gas & Electric Corp.

NO END OF FUN

The home that has a Pianola Piano never wants for entertainment. All the music of the world may be had in the Pianola music rolls, and every one can play it. Your Pianola Piano is also a perfect piano for hand-playing.

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SYDNOR & HUNDLEY

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